

# Review of: "Neoliberalism, Strong State and Democracy"

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**Potential competing interests:** No potential competing interests to declare.

Dear Hubert,

I think this is a very well-written, mostly clear and interesting piece. I enjoyed reading it.

Firstly, when revised it might be a reference text on neoliberal theorists from different branches and neoliberalism, a text which also very rightly underlines the political and class content of the neoliberal project. On the question of neoliberalism's emphasis on strong state, you might like to have a look at Andrew Gamble's 1979 article below. It's written at a time that neoliberalism was not yet seen as the dominant historical process.

- Gamble, A. (1979) "The Free Economy and the Strong State: The Rise of the Social Market Economy" in R.Miliband and J.Savile (eds.), *The Socialist Register*, London, The Merlin Press, 1-25.

In the text, your two references to Arendt would not make sense to readers, who are not familiar with her work. However, rather than opening new avenues in your text on Arendt, maybe you can try expressing yourself in some other ways which can be understood by everyone. Additionally, your paragraph on Schmitt's private-public relation needs to be clarified in terms of the argument that you try to underline there.

I did not also understand why you discuss Keynesian understanding of democracy and state, and how this discussion contributes to your overall argument.

I found your comparison between Hayek and Schmitt important as this comparison helps us understand contemporary authoritarian trends. But it would be good if you explain in more detail what this means for authoritarian neoliberalism given that you don't define Schmitt as a neoliberal thinker.

If you clarify and elaborate more on these points, I think internal consistency of your article would be further improved.

Best,

Pınar Bedirhanoglu